



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Health Care Financing Administration

Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Family and Children's Health Program Group
Division of Integrated Health Systems
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Gary B. Redding, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
State of Georgia Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-3159

Dear Mr. Redding:

I am pleased to inform you that, under waiver authority of Section 1915(b) of the Social Security Act (the Act), the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) is approving Georgia's request to renew its 1915(b)(1) waiver known as Georgia Better Health Care.

I base my decision to approve Georgia's request on the evidence submitted by the State in its request and during the review process indicating that the State has met all statutory and regulatory requirements for the assurance of quality, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of care, as is required for all Section 1915(b) waivers. This approval provides for the waiver of Section 1902(a)(23) - Freedom of Choice and Section 1902(a)(10)(B) - Comparability of Services.

Approval of this renewal request covers a period of two years, from December 15, 2000 through December 14, 2002 and is designated for our purposes as renewal GA03.R03. Georgia may request a further renewal of this authority at the end of this period. To do so, the State must submit its request for renewal at least 90 days in advance of the expiration date (i.e. by September 14, 2002). For Section 1915(b)(1) primary care case management (PCCM) waivers a separate preprint now exists for renewals. At the appropriate time, the State may want to contact the Atlanta Regional Office for a copy of the then current version of the 1915(b)(1) PCCM renewal preprint.

Unless significant problems are identified in the future, the State will not be required to arrange for an independent assessment. However, the State will continue to be responsible for documenting the cost effectiveness, access, and quality factors in subsequent renewal requests. Furthermore, approval of this waiver request is in accordance with the requirement that the project will not restrict emergency services or family planning services.

We wish you continued success in the operation of Georgia Better Health Care. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tandra Hodges in the Division of Medicaid and State Operations in HCFA's Atlanta Regional Office at (404) 562-7409.

Sincerely,

Michael Fiore
Director

cc: Eugene Grasser, HCFA Atlanta Regional Office
Tandra Hodges, HCFA Atlanta Regional Office
Larry Berman, HCFA Central Office
George Smith, HCFA Central Office
Jeff Farkas, OMB
Gloria Smiddy, HCFA
Anna Meyers, HCFA